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ORLEANS COUNTY MONITOR.

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tion. All ads must have metal body.

General Lewis A. Grant, commander of the Old Brigade of Vermont Volunteers in the war of the rebellion, has been appointed assistant secretary of war. General Grant has a brilliant war record, earning his title by gallant service in the field. He was a lawyer, practicing his profession in Vermont at the breaking out of the war. On the return of peace he moved to Des Moines, but is now resident of Minneapolis. His friends and comrades in Vermont congratulate him on his appointment.

Another new ocean racer, the Majestic, of the White Star line, will reach New York this week. She is a sister ship of the Teutonic, but it is anticipated that she will surpass that vessel in point of speed. Her performances will be watched with interest; but it will not be safe to assume that she will cut down materially the present six-day limit. Numerous ships have been built since the Etruria for this purpose, but even the City of Paris has only succeeded in the effort on rare occasions.

The expert engineers sent from Paris to investigate De Lesseps's big ditch at Panama have returned to Paris and made an unfavorable report. They find that there has been an enormous waste of money, and that it will take at least \$100,000,000 to complete the work. De Lesseps is reported to be completely cast down by this result of the examination, but there is no reason why he should be, for it only tells what everybody knew before—that his great scheme, on paper, was one of the most magnificent but disastrous financial failures on record.

In the canvass already begun for nominations, by the republican state convention for the highest elective offices in the gift of the people, the majority of Republicans have a right to demand that party principles shall not be sacrificed at the bidding of any political clique. A sorry spectacle would the party present should it give up the rule so emphasized by the last convention and re-establish the vicious order of succession that had crept in until it became a custom which finally was overthrown as obnoxious and detrimental. The candidate for governor should be a man direct from the people, and not one who has taken advantage of his official position as the second executive officer of the state to form an alliance with other politicians with a view to his own promotion and their advancement.—*Landmark.*

The Australian ballot system was tried in two States whose people are widely dissimilar in character, habits, modes of thought and action—Rhode Island and Missouri. The contrast between the two peoples could scarcely be greater if an ocean instead of a half continent separated them. Rhode Island is thickly populated, crowded with toilers, dense with factories. The masses of her people are day laborers, who for the most part content to be wage earners and their children after them. But Missouri is large and roomy, scarcely yet well settled, with a rustling, active, pushing, energetic, ambitious, breezy, booming Western populace. It speaks well for the system that in both States, under such differing conditions, it is universally pronounced successful in operation.

We congratulate Col. Forbes on his returning candor. In a dispatch to the Boston Journal from White River Junction he quite fairly presents the status of the canvass. Respecting the governorship, he says: "A careful count of the republican state papers which have squarely declared editorially for governor foots up twenty-four for Page and twelve for Woodbury. Eight republican state papers have not declared for either candidate. The friends of both candidates profess to be sanguine of success in the convention." This is substantially correct. We are unable, however, to count but eleven declared Woodbury papers. This count includes the Hardwick Gazette, whose editor is a democrat and has usually been identified with the democracy, though his politics have generally been considered as somewhat a matter of revenue; the Lyndonville Journal, independent, and a sort of counterpoise to the Gazette in respect to temperance; the Burlington Earth, the paper of a firm of patent medicine manufacturers. These papers are all less than a year old, and, as a matter of fact, have no established political status. Very likely the Woodbury column may have a recruit or two from the ranks of the non-committal, but the probabilities in this direction are very small. Colonel Woodbury's candidature seems to be supported by about one-third of the republican political press of the state.—*Watchman.*

A Campaign Slander and its Refutation.

Some months since, when the subject of governor candidates for 1890 began to be discussed in this section, we were written to and approached by parties who were favorable to the candidacy of Col. Woodbury. Among the things written and talked about was the alleged fact that Carroll S. Page, another supposed to be candidate, had during the time of the rebellion shown the "white feather" by refusing to go into the army, and by fleeing to Canada to avoid the draft. It seems, from the communication published below, that some two months since Judge Austin, of this town, also received a letter from some source containing the same unpleasant story about Mr. Page. Since that time there have been mysterious whisperings of something that was lying back damaging to the record of Mr. Page. The report was well calculated to disturb those who have a high regard for an honorable and patriotic gentleman, one of the prominent and honored men of our own beloved state.

By some means it seems that the story has had a very extended circulation within the last few weeks, and that it is being used on the sly to the injury of Mr. Page. If the story is true, neither Mr. Page nor his friends have any reason to complain. If false, it will be regarded by all good men, whatever their preference upon the governor question, as a most cowardly and unjustifiable piece of business, which will, and certainly should, react upon its authors and promulgators.

The press, which is more suspicious of campaign gossip, has been less ready to catch on to the story, and it is only just coming to light in the form of innuendo and mild references. Without refutation the story would be in fullest blast in all the anti-Page papers before the coming of the frogs. As a specimen or what has already started, we quote from the *Brandon Union*:

"We have no personal knowledge of Hon. C. S. Page's record in war time. We have nothing to utter against what we have no personal knowledge of, but would suggest that another ten thousand edition of that gentleman's life be issued with the war record fully written in."

Such a thrust as the above is calculated to do more injustice to Mr. Page than the fullest detail of all that his political rivals ever rehearsed about him, and it seems to us to demand an answer.

Judge O. H. Austin, whose letter appears below, is Probate Judge of this county; he was a companion captain with Capt. U. A. Woodbury, and a classmate in college with Henry Ballard. Hence the plain inquiries and the frank and free statements in answer. We are permitted to use the letters:

Barton Landing, Vt., Feb. 6, 1890.
HON. HENRY BALLARD.
My Dear Sir.—I have lately received a letter from a friend of Lieut. Gov. Woodbury, alleging substantially that C. S. Page was in Canada during the civil war for the purpose of avoiding the draft. I write you as a Burlington man and an old acquaintance, to ascertain, if possible, upon what foundation this charge rests. I have had for years a very friendly feeling toward Mr. Page, but if this charge is true, I certainly can not support him for governor of our good and patriotic state. If untrue, I would not support any man capable of promulgating, or causing to be promulgated, charges of this kind against as good a man as I had supposed Mr. Page to be, and as deserving by reason of sacrifice and efficient labors for his party, as Mr. Page confessedly is.

To make such charges, unless there is known to be a substantial foundation therefor, I deem most cowardly and unworthy. Comrade Woodbury was in my regiment, and I am not able to believe that he is capable of countenancing or assenting to this method of warfare, unless assured of his position, and unless he has the facts on his side to justify it.

Please write me fully as to the facts in this matter and greatly oblige,
Yours Truly,
O. H. AUSTIN.

Burlington, Vt., March 3, 1890.
HON. O. H. AUSTIN.

My Dear Sir.—Yours of Feb. 6th, received. Absence from town and pressure of business has prevented my replying to it until now. In answer I would say that some six years since, I fully investigated the matter to which you refer. I examined the personal diaries and memoranda books kept by Mr. Page during the war. I examined the books of account and papers relating to his father's business, which was at that time kept largely by his son, C. S. Page. They show conclusively and beyond a possibility of a doubt, that they were made and kept by him at that time, and not since, as any one can see that cares to examine them. I examined the enrollment list for the town of Hyde Park, the records of the drafts made in that town during the war and the report of the Adjutant General of our state. The examination was a very careful and thorough one, and showed, I repeat, was of the most conclusive and convincing character, and showed beyond any question or doubt, that at no time during the war could Mr. Page have possibly been in Canada for the purpose of avoiding a draft, but that he was at all times during the war, subject to one, if one was had in Hyde Park, and that he in no way sought to avoid or escape it.

They show further, that from the month in which the first draft occurred in Vermont to the end of the war, he was in Canada at different times, in all less than eleven weeks. He was at that time a minor, acting under the directions of his father in attending upon legitimate business, at times, I repeat, when it could not have been possible for him to have been absent for the purpose of avoiding a draft.

I am glad of an opportunity to make this statement as an act of justice to Mr. Page, for I am sure that if any "Friend of Lieut. Gov. Woodbury" is making any such charge against him, he is either in entire ignorance of the matter, or, if not ignorant, is prompted by malice and a desire to do Mr. Page a great injustice.

As to the question as to who is the best man for our next governor, I express no opinion. I count all those who have been prominently named as my friends. For myself, for all that I know, I can cheerfully support any of the candidates named for that office.

Sincerely Yours,
HENRY BALLARD.

Together with other papers in the state, the MONITOR has engaged in the early discussion of the character and merits of those presumed to be candidates for governor. We have undertaken to discuss the matter fairly and to base our statements on what are believed to be facts. In regard to the Canada scandal on Mr. Page, we have taken measures to personally examine Carroll Page's diaries, his father's cash books, ledgers, etc., and we unqualifiedly vouch for the truth of Mr. Ballard's statement in the above letter. We learn that Carroll S. Page did not seek to avoid the draft and flee to Canada to escape one, but that he was always subject to a draft, when one could have been made, and was nearly all of the time in the state during the years when the drafts were ordered. From the letter of Col. Sawyer, published in this paper, and from other evidence, we believe that Carroll S. Page was as patriotic and as eager to go to war as any young man in the valley of the Lamoille. That he did not go, if a fault at all, was not his own. The following are some of the facts that we have ascertained in the matter:

Carroll S. Page is the son of Hon. R. S. Page of Hyde Park. The father, previous to and during the war, was engaged in an extensive business. He sent out a large number of tin peddlers; their field of operation was in Northern Vermont and Southern Canada. He was a sufferer from the effects of a spinal injury in early life, which nearly cost him his life, making him an invalid for life and incapacitating him for manual labor and many of the important details of his business. His son Carroll was eighteen years of age at the time the war broke out. He had been his father's dependence in some of his most important business for several years—in fact had been sent to New York, Boston, Burlington, Montreal and elsewhere in the purchase of goods, and in the sale of barter ever after he was fifteen years of age. He was also his father's chief bookkeeper. Mr. Page manufactured his tinware in Hyde Park for his Canadian trade until the heavy duty on tin made it impossible to do it in the States, when he sent a man into Canada, to manufacture his goods there for the Canadian trade. After the business was started in Canada, Carroll was sent up there from time to time to receive the barter collected by the peddlers, make settlements with them, and to attend to such other matters as the business required. Mr. Ballard states that from the month of the first draft to the close of the war Carroll S. Page was in Canada less than eleven weeks. We found the same facts by the records from the books. Young Page's name was enrolled in Hyde Park, and he was at all times subject to a draft. It happened that Hyde Park kept her quota well up at all times, and that only one draft was had. This, as the Adjutant and Inspector General's records show, was the draft where it was optional with the drafted man to enter the service or pay \$300 commutation money. Mr. Page, Sr. was reputed at that time to be a man of considerable wealth, and it is not to be presumed that he would have exiled his son by running him to Canada to escape the payment of \$300 commutation. Judge Page was a man of standing in his town; he was first selectman in 1862 and 1863. In 1864 and 1865, though a very active republican, he represented Hyde Park, then a strong democratic town, in the Legislature. Mr. Page, now 77 yrs. of age, is and has been for many years Judge of Probate in Lamoille county. He was not such a man as to permit his son to be disgraced by running to Canada. Another fact shows that there was no scandal on Carroll Page, and that he was not held in disesteem by the people and soldier citizens of his town. Very soon after the war he was chosen representative to the legislature, and the honor was repeated with the largest majority ever given a candidate in that town; as soon thereafter as he reached that age when he was eligible to the office of senator, he was sent to the state senate by the voters of his county. The people of Lamoille knew nothing of a "skeddaddie" scandal during the war, or for years afterward. It belongs to that species of political fungus which grows up rapidly during political campaigns.

The letter from Col. E. B. Sawyer, published elsewhere, will show the reason why young Page did not leave his father and his home to enter the service with U. A. Woodbury, Col. Sawyer, Col. Benton and others. The letter shows how unfair and unkind is this cowardly attack on Mr. Page's patriotism.

We have always been willing to accord to Col. Woodbury the honor that belongs to a patriotic and chivalrous man, and dislike to feel that he is in any way responsible for the attack on

Mr. Page. If he has unwittingly participated in the promulgation of these false stories, we think he will be willing to aid in undoing the wrong that has been done. We hope that Col. Woodbury will make the *amende honorable*, which a true man delights to do when he has wronged a friend. We think he will do it.

Letter From Col. E. B. Sawyer.
Hyde Park, April 3, 1890.

CAPT. GEO. H. BLAKE,
Sir.—In regard to the reports that have found currency of late derogatory to the country, the Hon. C. S. Page during the period of the late war, I take pleasure in stating that I have known Mr. Page from early boyhood, and know as much, perhaps, as any man in regard to that particular period of his life. I have been astonished and pained to learn that anybody, even as a political scandal, should state that Carroll S. Page did anything in the dark days of the war that was not manly and patriotic. I was a resident of Hyde Park when the war broke out, and was intensely interested in the thrilling events of the war, and I was, I think, one of the first to enlist, with whom I was most closely associated in friendship, and myself made a solemn pledge during the time of the campaign at Bull Run, that if that battle went adverse to the North, we would at once enlist in defense of the Union. The battle resulted in a defeat and a rout and we each made preparation for enlistment at once. Gov. 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